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College of Arts and Sciences

Department of History

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

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Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 200--

Dear Senator Kassebaum,

For several years, I have been aware of the heroism during World War II of Raoul Wallenberg. The recent NBC mini-series about his life was a gripping recreation of his exploits and his success in saving, directly and indirectly, approximately 100,000 Jews during the Holocaust. No government, including ours, even comes close to matching his interest in and effort at rescue. (For a chilling, thoroughly documented account of U.S. government apathy, even obstructionism, see David Wyman's The Abandonment of the Jews, Pantheon, 1984).

I am, however, left with the nagging fear that, after paying tribute to Wallenberg, the media and television viewers will simply shake their heads over his fate and go about their "business as usual." But it is simply not enough to serialize his life, name a portion of the street in front of the U.N. after him and make him an honorary U.S. citizen, as Congress did a few years ago. If there is even the remotest possibility that he is still alive after these forty years have passed since his disappearance, then every effort must be made by this government to secure his freedom. If he is dead, we must demand proof and be provided particulars. His name should be part of every conversation we have with the Russians, in every forum, from diplomatic exchanges to trade talks and cultural interchanges. Is anything being done at any level??

As an American citizen who was fortunate enough to be born in this country and to have escaped the fate of many of the members of my husband's family and millions of other Jews who were murdered by Hitler, I agonize over the fate of this "Righteous Gentile." I believe that others do, too, and we are counting on you and our other elected representatives, including the President, to seize every opportunity to investigate recent reported sightings of him in Soviet prison camps.

Sincerely,

*Carla L. Klausner*

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